

Lakisha Langley
CCSU School MFT student
228 Homeside Ave
West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 668-6849

Lakishahl@comcast.net

To: The Education Committee and General Assembly of the Connecticut Legislature

Date: March 7, 2016

Re: Raised Bill: An Act Concerning Marital and Family Therapist

I write in support of the HB 5550 and to provide feedback as I will be graduating in May of 2016 as a School Marriage and Family Therapist. I completed my 2014-2015 practicum in the New London school district. Then I selected an internship placement that would fulfill the requirements of being a Certified School Marriage and Family Therapist. I am currently interning at Jonathan Law High School in Milford and Keigwin Middle School in Middletown in hopes of obtaining a position as a School Marriage Family Therapist.

Both Jonathan Law High School and Keigwin Middle School have expressed to me the need for the additional discipline of a School Marriage and Family Therapist to their multidisciplinary team. This would add a critical layer to their school's mental health teams, and allow the administrative staff and teachers to better understand students who are in need of support due to social and emotional functioning. My input and training has benefited many students and their families during our weekly meetings on the Placement and Planning Team and the Consult Data Team. Students are referred to me because of their many needs and I work to support the students in school which usually entails connecting with their families. Once a week I meet with students individually and in groups to address social skills, loss, grief, life skills and family conflicts that negatively impacts them from being academically successful.

Building trust and a relationship with my students and their families takes some time. I build an intimate relationship with the people I work with and although Milford Public Schools would like to hire me after I complete my internship and graduate, they cannot. I must graduate, wait 12 months, pass my licensing exam, apply for the certificate and then I can apply for a school position. By this time the relationships I have worked hard to build may have been lost.

I believe my training as a Marriage and Family Therapist can benefit many different organizations, especially schools. Due to my experience as a School Marriage and Family Therapy graduate student, I am hopeful that this testimony gives enough proof that School Marriage and Family Therapist will have a great impact on the school systems by working collaboratively with students, families and faculty.

Thank you,

Lakisha Langley